

Natural Resources—Development

which is the whole key to any industrialization or building of secondary industry, but to bring wide benefits to the entire Atlantic area.

Mr. Lesage: You have been in Toronto too long; you do not know what is going on here.

Mr. Fleming: Pardon?

Mr. Lesage: You have been detained in Toronto too long.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I think I have been around this country as much as the minister who has just undertaken to interrupt me; and I will say this to him. I think I know as much about the situation in the province of New Brunswick as the minister does; in fact I think I know a great deal more.

Mr. Lesage: Not about the Beechwood project.

Mr. Fleming: Yes, I will tell him about Beechwood, too. I will certainly tell him about Beechwood.

Mr. Dickey: The hon. member should be in the house a little more frequently.

Mr. Fleming: The federal government has failed in its duty to use the opportunity, in association with the province of New Brunswick, to carry forward that project. The Prime Minister of this country refused last year and has refused since that time the simple and modest request of the premier of New Brunswick for federal endorsement of the bonds that were issued by the province of New Brunswick to provide the finances for that extremely necessary and worth-while undertaking. Where have the federal government been? They have had a negative approach to these important projects which promise so much for the general welfare.

We now have the Gordon commission report, which does not hold out very bright hopes for the future of the Atlantic area. There is a great deal that could be done to stimulate the economy of the Atlantic area and give to it the bright future it can and I believe will have if there is some vision on the part of the government opposite and some willingness to co-operate with the provincial governments in that area. The record of this federal government in this sphere has been a record of wasted opportunities, and these opportunities do not recur every day.

I turn now to the second element in the amendment, the encouragement of more processing of our resources in Canada. I

[Mr. Fleming.]

shall not inflict upon the house a repetition of what I said on this subject when I spoke on July 9 last to a similar amendment. In this part of the amendment we in the official opposition are stating what we conceive to be a sound national objective. Providence has given this country a great storehouse of resources, but those resources are not inexhaustible. The experience of the United States has reminded us that even a country blessed with such huge resources as the United States is now facing a situation, as a result of active industrialization, where it is consuming its resources at an alarming rate.

We are told in the Paley report that between 1950 and 1975 the United States is going to have to quadruple its imports of industrial materials. Where is it going to look for them? It is going to look to Canada in large measure for those industrial materials, and there will be great pressure brought to bear on this country to allow the resources of this country to be exported to the United States for fabrication and processing there into finished products, so the expenditure of labour in the increase of the value of the article will be expended not in Canada but in the United States.

We state as a national objective of our party, a national objective that we say should commend itself to all forward-looking Canadians and all parties that set themselves up as fit to lead this country in government, that it should be our aim and purpose to see more and more of Canada's raw material processed, fabricated and manufactured into finished form in Canada for the benefit of Canadians, so that opportunities may be created here for Canadians today and Canadians of generations yet unborn.

The United States tariff is so designed as to exclude imports of manufactured and finished products, and at the same time make it relatively easy to import most of those raw materials that enter into industrial production. The extractive industries in Canada are going to be under pressure in the years ahead to fill the tremendous demand that will exist in the United States. Canada is going to be faced with an issue that may take various forms—but we can rest assured the issue will abide—as to whether we shall be content to extract from our soil these raw materials and then export them, or seek to carry forward right here in Canada their fabrication and processing into manufactured goods.

At six o'clock the house took recess.